

## “Trifles” By Susan Glaspell Summer Reading

**Read Story Here:** <http://www.english.unt.edu/~simpkins/Trifles.pdf>

### **Pre-Reading Questions:**

1. Define: Trifle
2. Define: Party-telephone

### **Post-reading Questions:**

1. Mrs. Hale says, “Those towels get dirty awful quick. Men’s hands aren’t always as clean as they might be” (982). What could she be implying about men?
2. Why is Mrs. Wright accused of her husband’s murder? What about her story concerning her husband’s mysterious death makes her a suspect? **Use a quote.**
3. How is the quilt Mrs. Wright was working on a clue to Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters that something was ‘off’ about Mrs. Wright’s behavior?
4. The women repeatedly say that the Wright’s house “wasn’t cheerful.” What could this imply about the couple that lived there? How is this information a clue into the mysterious death of Mr. Wright?
5. Mrs. Hale described Mrs. Wright as “She-come to think of it, she was kind of like a bird herself—real sweet and pretty, but kind of timid and-fluttery. How she-did-change.” The birdcage the women found is described as being ‘roughed up.’ How is this detail symbolic to the quote about Mrs. Wright’s personality?
6. What does “Trifles” say about men? What does it say about women? (Notice the speech patterns of the men and the women. How do they differ? What themes and concerns do you hear from each?)
7. Discuss the use of "trifles" in the play. (Look back to your definition for help.)
8. With which of the characters in this play do your sympathies lie? Why? To what extent do you agree with their actions?